

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 H-01 EURE-00
L-03 /023 W
-----052986 141556Z /45
P 141440Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3238

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SOFIA 1521

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, CSCE, BU
SUBJECT: DIMCHEV-GALFORD MARRIAGE CASE

REF: STATE 152183

1. ON JUNE 17, DIMCHEV LEFT MESSAGE AT EMBASSY THAT GOB
HAD REFUSED PERMISSION TO MARRY GALFORD AND HE INTENDED

TO INITIATE COURT PROCEEDINGS TO APPEAL DECISION.
(NOTE: COURT APPEAL PROCEDURE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN WIGHTMAN-
POPOVA CASE.) WE HAD EXPECTED DIMCHEV TO VISIT EMBASSY IN
FOLLOWING WEEKS AND THEREFORE HAD DELAYED ANSWERING REFTTEL
IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE COMPLETE RESPONSE, BUT DIMCHEV
HAS NOT REAPPEARED AND WE HESITATE TO DELAY ANY LONGER.

2. EMBASSY DEFINITELY IS OF THE VIEW THAT MISS GALFORD
SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ENLIST CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST AND BACKING
AND THAT AS MUCH CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE SHOULD BE BROUGHT
TO BEAR AS POSSIBLE. THE POINT AT WHICH IT SHOULD BE
BROUGHT TO BEAR, OF COURSE, IS THE BULGARIAN EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON.

3. DEPT SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE OF FOLLOWING FACTORS, WHICH
WILL HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON HOW WE, FROM OUR SIDE, HANDLE
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THE CASE:

-- DIMCHEV FORMERLY WAS MARRIED TO NADEZHDA STOYANOVA
DIMCHEVA. ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1972 DIMCHEV AND DIMCHEVA LEFT
BULGARIA AS PART OF A GROUP TOUR TO VIENNA. ONCE IN VIENNA,
THEY REQUESTED AND RECEIVED POLITICAL ASYLUM FROM THE
AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES AND ON FEBRUARY 15, 1973 WITH UNHCR AND

TOLSTOY FOUNDATION ASSISTANCE ENTERED US AS REFUGEES.

-- AT TIME OF THEIR DEFECTION, DIMCHEVS LEFT BEHIND IN BULGARIA A DAUGHTER, GLORIA ZDRAVKOVA DIMCHEVA, THEN AGED 12. AFTER SEVERAL UNSUCCESSFUL APPEALS TO GOB TO ALLOW DAUGHTER TO JOIN THEM IN US, MRS. DIMCHEVA ON JANUARY 2, 1975 RETURNED TO BULGARIA ON ALIEN RE-ENTRY PERMIT UNDER TERMS OF 1 NOVEMBER 1974 BULGARIAN AMNESTY LAW IN ORDER TO BE WITH HER DAUGHTER. SINCE RELEASE FROM A BRIEF PERIOD OF DETENTION, MRS. DIMCHEVA HAS EXPERIENCED GREAT DIFFICULTY, HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO WORK ONLY AT MENIAL AND LOW-PAID JOBS, AND HER LIVING CONDITIONS ARE GENERALLY MISERABLE.

-- DIMCHEV HIMSELF RETURNED TO BULGARIA ON JANUARY 16, 1976, UNDER THE AMNESTY LAW. HIS SITUATION TOO HAS BEEN VERY DIFFICULT. LATER THAT YEAR, THE TWO AGREED ON AN AMICABLE DIVORCE. BOTH HAVE SEPARATELY SOUGHT PERMISSION TO RETURN TO US, IN MRS. DIMCHEVA'S CASE TOGETHER WITH HER DAUGHTER GLORIA (SHE IS THELEGALGUARDIAN). THEY HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.

-- ON JUNE 14, 1977 MRS. DIMCHEVA SENT AN APPEAL TO CONGRESSMAN DANTE B. FASCELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE US CSCE COMMISSION. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE CONGRESSMAN HAS RECEIVED THE APPEAL. COPIES OF IT ARE BEING POUCHED EUR/EE, ATTENTION MR. KENT BROWN.
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4. OBSERVATIONS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOLFORD-DIMCHEV MARRIAGE IS BEING UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING THE RETURN TO THE US OF ALL THE DIMCHEVS. THAT IS, FOLLOWING MARRIAGE TO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, DIMCHEV WILL FILE AN IV PETITION FOR HIS DAUGHTER AND WILL SOMEHOW ATTEMPT TO BRING OVER MRS. DIMCHEVA AS WELL. GIVEN THE MISERY THE DIMCHEVS AS A GROUP ARE NOW EXPERIENCING, EVEN IF THIS HYPOTHESIS IS TRUE, IT WOULD NOT UNDULY DISTURB THE EMBASSY. BUT IT IS A POSSIBILITY DEPT SHOULD BEAR IN MIND.

5. TACTICS. IN HUMANITARIAN TERMS, IT SEEMS TO US OUR OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE TO EXTRICATE ALL THREE DIMCHEVS FROM THEIR PRESENT SITUATION. QUESTION IS BEST WAY OF ACCOMPLISHING THIS. CLEARLY MRS. DIMCHEVA WOULD QUALIFY FOR IMMIGRANT VISA AS RETURNING RESIDENT ALIEN (22 CFR 42.23), AS WOULD MR. DIMCHEV EVEN IF NOT MARRIED TO GOLFORD. IT MAY BE TACTICALLY WISE TO SEPARATE THE TWO CASES, PRESS GOB TO ALLOW MARRIAGE TO GOLFORD TO TAKE PLACE PER TERMS OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT, AND FOR THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED FAMILY TO BE UNITED IN US. AS AN ENTIRELY SEPARATE MATTER, MAKE

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3239

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REPRESENTATIONS ON MRS. DIMCHEVA'S BEHALF AS AN ALIEN
RESIDENT OF US. THIS LAST IS SOMEWHAT TRICKY, SINCE IT IS
NOT NORMAL PRACTICE TO ACT ON BEHALF OF A US RESIDENT ALIEN
IN THE COUNTRY OF THAT ALIEN'S CITIZENSHIP. ALTERNATIVE
TACTIC WOULD BE NOT TO PRESS ON BEHALF OF DIMCHEVA AND
DAUGHTER UNTIL DIMCHEV IS ALREADY IN US AND HAS FILED VISA
PETITION IN DAUGHTER'S BEHALF. IN THAT CASE, WE WOULD
HAVE VERY FIRM GROUND OR REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF
DAUGHTER

BUT BASIS FOR REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF
MRS. DIMCHEVA WOULD STILL BE SHAKY.

6. GOLFORD CALLED CONSUL ON JULY 14 SAYING THAT AN OFFICIAL
OF BULGARIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON INFORMED HER DIMCHEV DENIED
PERMISSION TO MARRY FOREIGNER BECAUSE HE ASKED TO MARRY
ABROAD. WITHOUT INTERVIEW WITH DIMCHEV WE NOT SURE THIS
THE CASE. (COMMENT: SECTION OF GOB APPLICATION FOR PER-
MISSION TO MARRY FOREIGNER REQUESTS SPECIFIC INFORMATION
ON INTENDED PLACE OF RESIDENCE AFTER MARRIAGE. ALSO, EACH
APPLICANT SIGNS STATEMENT EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING THAT
APPROVAL TO MARRY FOREIGNER DOES NOT RPT NOT MEAN PASSPORT
WILL BE ISSUED.) ALSO, GOLFORD TOLD BY GOB OFFICIAL THAT
MARRYING DIMCHEV WILL BE EASIER IF SHE TRAVELS TO BULGARIA,
FOR WHICH SHE REQUIRES AN UNDEFINED DOCUMENT FROM DIMCHEV
AND/OR GOB. SHE WAS ADVISED TO OBTAIN SPECIFIC TITLE OF

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DOCUMENT AND TO DISCUSS CASE WITH EUR/EE KENT BROWN.

7. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT BULGARIAN EMBASSY MAY BE MISLEADING GOLFORD ON FACTS OF CASE. WE BELIEVE SHE SHOULD NOT CONSIDER TRAVELLING TO BULGARIA UNTIL DIMCHEV HAS OBTAINED GOB APPROVAL TO MARRY.

8. REQUEST DEPT'S VIEWS RE PARA 5 ABOVE.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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